

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Advisory Action dated July 21, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 11-14, and 17-31 are pending in the application with claims 3, 4, 10, 15, and 16 being cancelled and withdrawn from consideration. Applicants amend claims 1 and 7, and submit that claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 11-14, and 17-31 are allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: August 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

George G. Ballas

Registration No.: 52,587

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP

1900 K Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

Attorneys for Applicant